

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 22 (canceled)

1 Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer program product for providing an auditable trail of
2 product transfers, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable
3 media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code [[means]] for computing, for each transfer of a
5 particular product, a globally-unique identifier associated with the transfer;

6 computer-readable program code [[means]] for computing a cryptographic signature over
7 one or more values describing the transfer;

8 computer-readable program code [[means]] for recording the cryptographic signature, the
9 globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of the values in a product-integral ownership
10 repository on the particular product;

11 computer-readable program code [[means]] for recording an audit record for the transfer
12 in an audit repository, wherein the audit record comprises the cryptographic signature, the
13 globally-unique identifier, and the values; and

14 computer-readable program code [[means]] for tracing transfers of the particular product
15 using each of the audit records that pertains to the particular product.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 23, wherein
2 each audit record that pertains to the particular product further comprises a second globally-
3 unique identifier which is associated with a next-previous transfer of the particular product, and

4 wherein the computer-readable program code [[means]] for tracing further comprises iteratively
5 using the second globally-unique identifier, when processing the audit record, to locate the audit
6 record which records the next-previous transfer.

Claims 25 - 29 (canceled)

1 Claim 30 (new): A method for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, comprising steps
2 of:

3 computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique identifier
4 associated with the transfer;

5 computing a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the transfer;
6 recording the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero or more of
7 the values in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product;

8 recording an audit record for the transfer in an audit repository, wherein the audit record
9 comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the values; and
10 tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that pertains to
11 the particular product.

1 Claim 31 (new): The method according to Claim 30, wherein each audit record that pertains to
2 the particular product further comprises a second globally-unique identifier which is associated
3 with a next-previous transfer of the particular product, and wherein the tracing step further
4 comprises iteratively using the second globally-unique identifier, when processing the audit

5 record, to locate the audit record which records the next-previous transfer.

1 Claim 32 (new): A system for providing an auditable trail of product transfers, comprising:

2 means for computing, for each transfer of a particular product, a globally-unique
3 identifier associated with the transfer;

4 means for computing a cryptographic signature over one or more values describing the
5 transfer;

6 means for recording the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and zero
7 or more of the values in a product-integral ownership repository on the particular product;

8 means for recording an audit record for the transfer in an audit repository, wherein the
9 audit record comprises the cryptographic signature, the globally-unique identifier, and the values;

10 and

11 means for tracing transfers of the particular product using each of the audit records that
12 pertains to the particular product.

1 Claim 33 (new): The system according to Claim 32, wherein each audit record that pertains to
2 the particular product further comprises a second globally-unique identifier which is associated
3 with a next-previous transfer of the particular product, and wherein the means for tracing further
4 comprises iteratively using the second globally-unique identifier, when processing the audit
5 record, to locate the audit record which records the next-previous transfer.